

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for providing search results to a user, the method comprising:

determining a list of named entities within a data store on a user's computer;
identifying an event wherein the event comprises a user interaction associated with an article on the user's computer;
identifying a plurality of named entities within the event;
determining a weight to associate with each of the plurality of named entities based at least in part on a frequency of each of the plurality of named entities within
[[a]] the data store; [[and]]
responsive to determining the weight to associate with each of the plurality of named entities, automatically creating an implicit search query based at least in part on each of the plurality of named entities and the associated weight, the implicit search query focused on a named entity with a higher associated weight more than on a named entity with a lower associated weight;
responsive to creating the implicit search query, retrieving from the user's computer a plurality of search results relevant to the search query; and
displaying the retrieved plurality of search results.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]], wherein identifying a plurality of named entities within the event comprises identifying an entity in the event that matches an entity in the list of named entities.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]], wherein determining the list of named entities comprises monitoring instant messaging traffic.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]], wherein determining the list of named entities comprises analyzing an email data store.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]], wherein determining the list of named entities comprises analyzing a directory structure.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]], wherein determining the list of named entities comprises searching a contact list.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]], wherein determining the list of named entities comprises searching a news list.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]], wherein determining the list of named entities comprises part of speech tagging.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the named entity comprises one of an email address, an instant messaging name, and a proper noun.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the named entity in a user profile.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying a plurality of named entities for a name by using first name only, last name only, and combinations thereof.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising filtering out at least one of the plurality of named entities having a high document frequency (DF).

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a result set associated with the implicit search query; and
outputting the result set.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

receiving an interest signal associated with one of the plurality of named entities; and
ranking the result set based at least in part on the interest signal.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for providing search results to a user, the method comprising:

determining a list of named entities within a data store on a user's computer;
receiving an event wherein the event comprises a user interaction with an article on
the user's computer;

identifying a plurality of named entities in the event;

determining a weight to associate with each of the plurality of named entities based at least in part on a frequency of each of the plurality of named entities within [[a]] the data store;

responsive to determining the weight to associate with each of the plurality of named entities, automatically creating an implicit query based at least in part on each of the plurality of named entities and the associated weight, the implicit search query focused on a named entity with a higher associated weight more than on a named entity with a lower associated weight;

responsive to creating the implicit search query, transmitting the implicit query to a search engine; and

receiving a result set from the search engine, the result set comprising one or more article identifiers; and responsive to an associated score exceeding a threshold, outputting the one or more article identifiers.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium on which is encoded program code, the program code comprising:

program code for determining a list of named entities within a data store on a user's computer

program code for identifying an event wherein the event comprises a user interaction associated with an article on the user's computer;

program code for identifying a plurality of named entities within the event;

program code for determining a weight to associate with each of the plurality of named entities based at least in part on a frequency of each of the plurality of named entities within [[a]] the data store; [[and]] program code for automatically creating an implicit search query, responsive to determining the weight to associate with each of the plurality of named entities, the implicit query based at least in part on ~~each~~ of the plurality of named entities and the associated weight, the implicit search query focused on a named entity with a higher associated weight more than on a named entity with a lower associated weight;

program code for retrieving from the user's computer a plurality of search results relevant to the search query responsive to creating the implicit search query; and

program code for displaying the retrieved plurality of search results.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein program code for identifying a plurality of named entities within the event comprises program code for identifying an entity in the event that matches an entity in the list of named entities.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, further comprising program code for storing the named entity in a user profile.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 20 [[21]], wherein program code for determining the list of named entities comprises program code for monitoring instant messaging traffic.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 20 [[21]], wherein program code for determining the list of named entities comprises program code for analyzing an email data store.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 20 [[21]], wherein program code for determining the list of named entities comprises program code for analyzing a directory structure.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 20 [[21]], wherein program code for determining the list of named entities comprises program code for searching a contact list.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 20 [[21]], wherein program code for determining the list of named entities comprises program code for searching a news list.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 20 [[21]], wherein program code for determining the list of named entities comprises program code for part of speech tagging.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, further comprising:
program code for receiving a result set associated with the implicit search query; and

program code for outputting the result set.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 30, further comprising:
program code for receiving an interest signal associated with one of the plurality of
named entities; and
program code for ranking the result set based at least in part on the interest signal.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, further comprising
program code for identifying a plurality of named entities for a name by using first name
only, last name only, and combinations thereof.

33. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, further comprising program code
for filtering out at least one of the plurality of named entities having a high document
frequency (DF).

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium on which is encoded program code,
the program code comprising:

program code for determining a list of named entities within a data store on a user's
computer;

program code for receiving an event wherein the event comprises a user interaction
with an article on the user's computer;

program code for identifying a plurality of named entities in the event;

program code for determining a weight to associate with each of the plurality of named entities based at least in part on a frequency of each of the plurality of named entities within [[a]] the data store;

program code for automatically creating an implicit query, responsive to determining the weight to associate with each of the plurality of named entities, the implicit query based at least in part on ~~each~~ of the plurality of named entities and the associated weight, the implicit search query focused on a named entity with a higher associated weight more than on a named entity with a lower associated weight;

program code for transmitting the implicit query to a search engine responsive to creating the implicit search query; and

program code for receiving a result set from the search engine, the result set comprising one or more article identifiers; and responsive to an associated score exceeding a threshold level of relevance, outputting the one or more article identifiers.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the frequency of each named entity comprises an inverse document frequency of that named entity within the data store.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the frequency of each named entity comprises a term frequency of that named entity within the data store.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the frequency of each named entity comprises an inverse document frequency of that named entity within the data store.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the frequency of each named entity comprises a term frequency of that named entity within the data store.

42. (Cancelled)